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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HALTWHISTLE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and of

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year, 1967

R. Robson & Sons Abbey Press, Hexham.

STAFF :

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W. FORSTER, M.A.P.H.I.	*Public Health Inspector.*
Mrs. E. THOMPSON - - -	*Clerk Typist*

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Haltwhistle :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1967.

The Medical Officer of Health is required to make as soon as practicable after the 31st December in each year, a report for the year to the Council, with copies to the Minister of Health, dealing with the sanitary circumstances, sanitary administration and vital statistics of the area and containing, in addition to public health matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report, any information required by the Minister. The Annual Report is regarded as specially valuable as a source of information showing the state of the public health in the area, and in order that it should be of the greatest value, the Minister suggests that it should, among other things, deal with water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal, common lodging houses, and services under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, while information is required under the Factories Act 1961. Some of these subjects are more conveniently dealt with in the Public Health Inspector's section of the Report. As the health of the people in the area may depend on environmental conditions and employment some information on these aspects is also usually included.

The District consists of a large rural area surrounding the town of Haltwhistle. Most of the land is high lying and. not very productive and is given over mainly to hill farming. Relatively small numbers are employed in the country districts and the population is declining. Haltwhistle is the only town of any size and provides most of the housing and employment. It seems unlikely that development will be undertaken elsewhere and most of the Council owned property, and all the accommodation for old people are centred there. It already offers a satisfactory range of employment and further diversity will be provided if the advance factory, being built during the year, introduces new industry to replace the colliery at Bardon Mill when it is closed.

Like most Rural Districts, Haltwhistle is losing population from year to year, and during 1967 the numbers fell by 40. The population is stable in that the number of births almost equalled the number of deaths. The birth rate was somewhat below the national average while the death rate was at the national level. Only one child died under the age

of one year, to give a low infantile mortality rate, and that death was due to congenital malformation and not preventable. The most frequent causes of death were heart diseases and the degenerative diseases, as in previous years and the average age at death was high — almost half the deaths occurred in people in the higher age group classified as 75 and over. The vital statistics show a satisfactory state of health.

Measles accounted for almost all the notifications of infectious diseases during the year. A number of cases of scarlet fever were notified, but they were sporadic in distribution and mild in nature. Although a very high proportion of children are immunised against the common infections, including whooping cough, twelve cases of this disease were notified, but they were presumably modified by immunisation as they did not show the characteristic symptoms. No case of tuberculosis was notified, and it caused no deaths. The improvement of environment and the preventative measures widely accepted have altered the whole pattern of infectious diseases, and where once it was an important part of the Annual Report now it calls for little comment.

With the completion of 88 houses in Haltwhistle the Council have completed their present building plan, and there is no immediate proposal for further development. The need for a few houses at Greenhead has been suggested but building there has not met with planning approval. There is still a need for houses for old people, preferably in Haltwhistle, which is a more convenient centre and allows for such services as chiropody and meals on wheels to be provided and has special accommodation for the frail elderly in Greenholme Road Flats. The advantage certainly seems to lie with houses in Haltwhistle rather than with small numbers of houses in each of the villages. In a Rural District such as Haltwhistle there is much to be said for continuing older houses in use by bringing them up to modern standards and assistance with improvement grants has led to the reconditioning of a substantial number of houses. The number of houses so improved can be expected to increase when the present schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal are completed.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, continue to supply water that is satisfactory in quality and quantity to the greater part of the district. Both the Company and the Health Department

take regular samples from the mains supply and exchange information on the results and the Company then take remedial action if necessary. Private and proposed supplies remain the responsibility of the Health Department, and help and advice are given where the supply is unsatisfactory. Plumbo-solvency is not a problem, but the natural fluoride content is low at 0.1 to 0.2 parts per million. The results of samples and the figures required as to the number of houses, in parishes, supplied with mains water are contained in the Public Health Inspector's section of the Report.

Work on the sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for the Bardon Mill and Henshaw area and the Greenhead and Bankfoot area began during 1966, and these schemes will meet the most urgent need for improved facilities. Extensions to the works at Haltwhistle are then planned, followed by minor schemes for the smaller communities.

The information required under the Food and Drugs Act of 1955 and the Factories Act of 1961 are contained in the Public Health Inspector's part of the Report, together with much useful information on the routine work of the Health Department. Although the collection of milk samples and their delivery within the necessary time to the Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle presents difficulties because of the distances involved, samples were taken from all farms selling untreated milk by retail, and all proved negative.

There is one Common Lodging House in Haltwhistle, now used by very few people. It is visited regularly and conforms to the standards required.

I should like to record my appreciation of the interest shown in the work of the Department by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and of their encouragement and support. My thanks are due also to the Clerk and other Officers for their help and co-operation, and to the Staff for willing and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres. The only town is Haltwhistle, the other centres of population being villages.

The estimated population for 1967 is 6,690, which is a decrease of 40 from 1966.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1967, was 2,348.

The rateable value at 31st March, 1967, is £163,248.

The sum represented by a penny rate at 31st March, 1967, is £630 4s. 11d.

The following is a list of persons employed in various industries in the district.

	Males and Females over 15 years of age
Mining and Quarrying	410
Paint, Varnish, Chemical and other Manufactures	670
Distributive Trades	280
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing ..	134
National and Local Government ..	77
Professional Services	190
Building Trades	246
Transport and Garages	180
Miscellaneous	110

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of the Haltwhistle Rural District estimated at 30th June, 1967, was 6,690.

Birth Rate

There were 86 live births, giving a birth rate of 14.78 per 1,000 population when the comparability factor is applied. It compares with 17.2 per 1,000 population for all England and Wales.

Of the total of 86 live births, 3 were illegitimate. There was 1 still-birth, compared with 1 in 1966.

Infantile Mortality

There was 1 death of an infant under one year. The infant mortality rate is 11.62 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 18.3 per 1,000.

General Death Rate

A total of 85 deaths occurred during 1967, an increase of 9 on 1966. When the comparability factor is applied, the death rate is 11.44 per 1,000 population. The figure for all England and Wales is 11.2 per 1,000.

14 deaths were due to Cancer, compared with 3 in 1966.

VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY

Live Births :	
Number	86
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	14.78
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.48
Stillbirths :	
Number	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	13
Total Live and Still Births	87
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	1
Infant Mortality Rates :	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ..	11.62
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	11.62
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per, 1000 total live births)	11.62
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	11.62
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	Nil
Maternal Mortality (including abortion) :	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

(a) Haltwhistle War Memorial Hospital

Surgeon :	Mr. C. I. Raeburn, F.R.C.S. (Ed
Gynaecologist :	Mr. D. T. Barber, F.R.C.S.
Physician :	Dr. J. B. Ryder, M.D., M.R.C.P.
Matron :	Miss E. M. Armstrong.

This hospital, which includes a modern Maternity Wing, is under the Management of the Hexham and District Management Committee.

The Local House Committee—Chairman, Mr. G. E. Dent, meets on the first Friday of alternate months.

(i) *X-Ray Department.*
X-Ray examinations are carried out Thursdays at 1-30 p.m.
Consultant Radiologist : Dr. W. Davidson.

(ii) *Gynaecologist Out-Patient Department.*
First Tuesday every month at 11-30 a.m.

(iii) *Surgical Out-Patient Department.*
Wednesdays, 12 noon.

(iv) *Medical Out-Patient Department.*
Alternate Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

(v) *Physio-Therapy Department.*
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-30 — 5 p.m.

(b) Hexham General Hospital.

Accommodation at this hospital is available for patients from this district. A number of medical cases for detailed investigation and some major emergency surgical cases are referred there and such special facilities as Physiotherapy are available.

(c) Carlisle Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Walkergate Infectious Diseases Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Cases of infectious disease requiring In-patient treatment are accommodated at the above hospitals.

Tuberculosis Service

(a) Chest Clinics

Hexham General Hospital — Tuesdays from 9 a.m.

Tuberculosis Officer—Frederic L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S.

Tuesdays	2—4 p.m.
Friday	5—6-30 p.m.

Institutional Treatment.

(i) *Wooley Hospital.*

The standard of treatment at this hospital continues to be exceptionally high, and there is now no waiting list for admission.

(ii) *Stannington Sanatorium.*

25 Children's beds are available.

Midwifery Service

(a) *Ante-Natal Care.*

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Clinic by the local doctors.

(b) *Haltwhistle Hospital.*

The majority of the expectant mothers in the district are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The services of a visiting Gynaecologist, together with his staff, have proved of great assistance and are also available for emergency work.

(c) *Domiciliary Service.*

Two midwives reside at 1 Bridge Street, Haltwhistle (Telephone 368).

Two cars are provided for the use of the Nurses in attending cases in this extensive district.

Home Help Service

The County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district.

Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required in cases of illness, but priority is given to domiciliary maternity cases.

More and more use is being made of the Service by old people and the chronic sick.

County Orthopaedic Service

The Orthopaedic Clinic for Children is held at Hexham General Hospital every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the fourth Tuesday every month at Hexham General Hospital and on the second Wednesday of every month at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic.

Child Welfare Service

Clinics are held at Haltwhistle Clinic every Thursday by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitor.

Clinics are also held at Gilsland and Halton-Lea-Gate every fourth Friday.

School Dental Clinic

Clinics are held every Monday and Thursday, and Friday of alternate weeks at Haltwhistle Clinic. The Dentist visits the various schools in the district.

Dental Officer — Mr. I. W. Atchison, B.D.S.

Public Health Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory, under the Director, J. H. Hale, is located at the Newcastle General Hospital.

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance service is maintained and run by the members of the St. John's Ambulance Division, for the Northumberland County Council, and members of the Nursing Division act as attendants when required.

During the year 1967, 6,461 cases were handled, made up as follows :—

Cases Transported by Ambulance :

Road Accidents..	.. 16	Mileage Covered ..	575
Other Accidents	.. 10	Mileage Covered ..	318
Invalids	.. 362	Mileage Covered ..	5,728
	388		6,621
Car Sitting Cases	..5,685	Mileage Covered ..	57,768
Total Cases ..	..6,461	Total Mileage ..	71,010

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths

Registrar : Mrs. F. Robinson.
Office : C.W.S. Building, Main Street, Haltwhistle.
Hours : Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays :— 11 a.m. to 12 noon.
Thursdays :—2—3 p.m.

TABLE I

The following table shows the principal vital mortality rates for the year 1957-67.

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living
1957	15.20	12.71	28.57	.00
1958	14.22	10.18	9.51	.00
1959	13.66	12.73	19.42	.00
1960	11.26	13.87	12.19	.00
1961	15.81	13.5	18.35	.00
1962	14.45	13.87	40.4	.00
1963	14.76	13.19	39.6	.68
1964	15.75	13.01	42.55	.68
1965	16.06	14.35	.00	.00
1966	16.05	10.22	31.91	.00
1967	14.78	11.44	11.62	.00

TABLE II.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASE	YEAR									
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	13	25	2	3	1	21	5	15	58	17
Whooping Cough	2	—	1	—	—	1	32	—	—	12
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Measles	1	8	12	266	—	79	112	96	15	147
Pneumonia	—	—	5	2	1	21	8	4	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	18	34	20	271	2	126	158	118	77	177

TABLE III.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age. Periods	New Notifications						Deaths					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IV.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Year	Registered Births					Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births)				
	Live Births		Still Births			Live Births		Still Births		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
1957	51	54	2	1	108	2	3	—	—	5
1958	51	53	1	2	107	1	2	—	—	3
1959	58	45	—	1	104	—	2	—	1	3
1960	42	40	1	2	85	1	3	—	1	5
1961	61	48	1	1	111	4	1	—	—	5
1962	45	54	2	1	102	1	1	—	—	2
1963	61	40	1	—	102	—	3	—	—	3
1964	55	39	1	1	96	2	4	—	—	6
1965	47	48	1	1	97	3	1	—	—	4
1966	57	37	—	1	95	—	—	—	—	—
1967	41	45	—	1	87	2	1	—	—	3

TABLE V.

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age.			Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks of age		
	M.	F.		M.	F.
Legitimate ..	1	—	Legitimate ..	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—	Illegitimate	—	—
	1	—		1	—

TABLE VI

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	M.	F.	Total	
Congenital .. malformations ..	1	—	1	Under 4 weeks
	1		1	

TABLE VI.
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

CAUSES OF DEATH	1963		1964		1965		1966		1967	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	—	1	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus...	6	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	3	4	—	4	3	1	2	3	7
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
16. Diabetes	—	2	1	1	—	4	—	—	1	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	4	13	7	12	11	16	6	6	9	8
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	15	9	9	7	14	6	12	5	11	6
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Other Heart Disease	5	3	3	9	3	6	8	12	3	4
21. Other Circulatory Disease	1	6	6	1	5	4	5	2	4	2
22. Influenza	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	—	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1
24. Bronchitis	2	1	1		7	1	1	4	2	2
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
27. Gastritis, Entertitis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	—
30. Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
32. Other Defined and ill-defined disease ...	2	6	3	5	1	5	2	—	1	4
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
34. All other Accidents	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	2
35. Suicide	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	48	48	48	47	53	52	39	35	45	40

TABLE VII
AGES AT DEATH

	M.	F.	Total
Under 4 weeks	1	—	1
4 weeks and under 1 year ..	—	—	—
1 — 4 years	—	—	—
5 — 14 ,, ...	—	—	—
15 — 24 ,, ...	—	1	1
25 — 34 ,, ...	—	2	2
35 — 44 ,, ...	—	1	1
45 — 54 ,, ...	1	—	1
55 — 64 ,, ...	6	9	15
65 — 74	16	10	26
75 and over	21	17	38
	45	40	85

REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1967

W. FORSTER,
M.A.P.H.I.

Duties :

Public Health.
Housing.

Meat and Foods Inspection.

Council House Allocation.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year, in conjunction with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, 71 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, 70 from public supplies and 1 from a private supply.

As will be seen from the table below, two samples taken in Slaggyford, fell below the accepted standard. This is a small supply and although permanently chlorinated it is difficult to strike a balance between over and under chlorination due to the considerable variation in flow resulting from heavy rainfall.

In May, the Water Company installed automatic chlorinating apparatus at the Birch Trees supply, and it can be noted that no unsatisfactory samples were taken from that source during the year. This supply was previously chlorinated manually and had been subject to intermittent pollution.

Including new houses 62 additional properties were connected to public mains during the year.

Public Supplies

Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples

	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory	No. of Samples Taken
Haltwhistle	27	—	27
Bardon Mill	5	—	5
Park Village	1	—	1
Melkridge	3	—	3
Henshaw	3	—	3
Gilsland	7	—	7
Greenhead	2	—	2
Coanwood	1	—	1
Slaggyford	6	2	8
Halton-Lea-Gate	13	—	13
	68	2	70

Private Supplies

One sample was taken in Whitfield Village in December. The result shows that the sample was unsatisfactory and further investigation of this supply will be carried out.

Details of Houses and Population Supplied from Public Mains

Parish	No. of Houses Direct from Mains	Estimated Population	No. of Houses Served by Standpipes	Estimated Population
Bardon Mill ..	97	262	6	17
Coanwood ..	49	157	6	19
Featherstone ..	46	129	8	24
Greenhead ..	64	182	9	26
Haltwhistle ..	1,267	3,660	30	93
Hartleyburn ..	72	223	19	59
Henshaw ..	150	433	24	70
Melkridge ..	47	157	11	36
Plenmeller with Whitfield ..	27	86	2	6
Kirkhaugh with Knaresdale ..	66	208	1	3
Thirlwall ..	140	455	6	19
	2,026	5,952	122	372

Sources closed or discontinued — No. of Houses .. .. —

New Service provided :—

(a) By Local Authority .. Nil. No. of Houses .. .. Nil.

(b) By Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company .. 62 No. of Houses 62

(c) By Private Owner .. — No. of Houses .. .. —

HOUSING

Council House Building

Work onthe erection of 88 houses at Flowers Close and Comb Hill, Haltwhistle, progressed satisfactorily during the year, and by 31st December 58 houses had been completed.

New Houses Completed During the Year

New Houses completed during the Year.	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	58	—	58
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons ..	—	1	1
	58	1	59

Houses Under Construction at 31/12/67

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority Haltwhistle..	30	—	30
(b) By other persons or bodies	—	3	3
	30	3	33

The total number of houses owned by the Council is now 567, of which 65 are for aged persons. This figure also includes the Warden's Flat at Greenholme Road and the Caretaker's Cottage at Greencroft Lodge.

Details of Council Housing Estates are shown in the following table.

Details of Council Housing Estates as at 31/12/67

General Purpose Houses

Estate	Type of House					
	3 BR	3 BR Maison-ette	2 BR	2 BR Flat Ground Floor	2 BR Flat First Floor	Total
Haltwhistle :						
Greencroft	24	—	—	—	—	24
Greencroft Lodge	—	—	1	—	—	1
Park Road	31	—	—	—	—	31
Park Avenue	24	—	—	—	—	24
Central Drive	36	—	10	—	—	46
Greencroft Avenue	11	—	—	—	—	11
Fell View ..	—	—	16	—	—	16
Comb Hill Road	14	—	—	—	—	14
Moorland Avenue	26	—	—	4	4	34
Newholme Avenue	44	—	—	4	4	52
Fairholme Avenue	12	—	—	—	—	12
Capel Avenue	10	—	—	8	8	26
Castle Hill	2	—	—	—	—	2
High Row	—	—	3	—	—	3
Westlands	34	—	2	—	—	36
Railway Terrace	5	—	—	—	—	5
Burn Close	14	—	—	—	—	14
Woodhead Lane	—	—	—	8	8	16
Woodhead Close	—	8	—	4	—	12
Greenholme Close	—	8	—	4	—	12
Warden's Flat Greenholme Road	—	—	—	—	1	1
	287	16	32	32	25	392
Longbyre :						
Holyrood Place	2	—	—	—	—	2
Greenhead :						
Milburn Terrace	1	—	4	—	—	5
Coanwood :						
High Ridley	8	—	8	—	—	8
Gilsland :						
Rosehill ..	13	—	—	—	—	13
Bardon Mill :						
Broadacres ..	36	—	8	—	—	44
Halton-Lea-Gate :						
Leaside ..	30	—	8	—	—	38
	377	16	52	32	25	502

Aged Persons Dwellings

Estate	Bungalows	D. Smith Bungalows	Ground Floor Flat	First Floor Flat	Totals
Holmeside Cresc.	11	—	—	—	11
Meadow Close ..	12	—	—	—	12
Greenholme Rd.	—	—	16	16	32
D. Smith B'lows	—	10	—	—	10
	23	10	16	16	65

Council House Applications

At the end of the year there were 71 applications for general purpose houses and 56 for aged persons dwellings.

58 new houses were occupied during the year. As a result of casual vacancies a further 23 families were re-housed, 21 into general purpose houses, and 2 into aged persons dwellings. By exchange of tenancies and transfers, 19 additional families were moved into houses more suitable to their needs, 17 into general purpose houses and 2 into aged persons dwellings.

Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants

Nine applications for discretionary grant were received during the year, of the properties concerned 8 were owner occupied and 1 was a rented house. Grants amounting to £3,162 were approved.

During the year works of improvement were completed in respect of 5 properties and grants amounting to £1,343 were passed for payment.

It can be noted that the number of applications for this type of improvement grant is the lowest since 1952. The reason for this being that because of financial restrictions the Council were unable to operate the system of discretionary grants during the first six months of the year.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1949 the total number of houses for which grant approval has been given is 307. Of this number 212 were for owner occupied properties and 95 for rented houses.

Standard Grants

Seven applications for standard grant were received during the year, all of which were approved.

During the year standard amenities were provided in seven properties and grants amounting to £1,011 were passed for payment.

Since this type of grant was introduced in 1960, 85 houses have been provided with standard amenities, of these 42 were owner occupied and 39 were rented premises, 16 of the latter being council owned.

Summary of Discretionary Grants Approved

Year	Number of Houses	Owner Occupied	Rented	Amount of Grant Approved £
1951	7	5	2	1142
1952	11	9	2	2424
1953	12	9	3	2585
1954	23	13	10	4239
1955	25	20	5	6203
1956	23	13	10	5089
1957	26	16	10	6160
1958	27	23	4	7391
1959	10	7	3	1964
1960	20	13	7	4256
1961	17	13	4	4097
1962	20	13	7	4344
1963	16	11	5	3994
1964	22	12	10	4494
1965	17	6	11	4471
1966	16	15	1	4434
1967	9	8	1	3162
	307	212	95	69166

Summary of Standard Grants Completed

Year	No. of houses	L.A.	Private	Owner Occupied	Rented	Basic Amenities provided				
						Bath	Wash hand basin	Hot Water Supply	Internal W.C.	Food Store
1959	2	—	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2
1960	6	—	6	4	2	3	3	4	4	4
1961	15	2	13	12	3	8	8	7	15	4
1962	22	13	9	7	15	6	21	6	9	5
1963	7	1	6	2	5	4	5	4	6	1
1964	16	—	16	8	8	11	14	12	16	13
1965	5	—	5	4	1	4	4	4	5	4
1966	5	—	5	1	4	4	4	4	5	3
1967	7	—	7	3	4	5	5	5	7	1
	85	16	69	42	43	47	66	47	68	37

Unfit Houses

Action was taken under Section 16, Housing Act 1957 in respect of six properties which were considered to be unfit for human habitation. Undertakings that the houses would not be re-let until they had been made fit were accepted by the Council in all cases.

Rent Act 1957

One application for a certificate of disrepair was received during the year, and a certificate was issued. Action under the Housing Act 1957 was subsequently taken against the property.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

In September, the slaughterhouse licence in respect of the premises at Crescent House, Haltwhistle was surrendered. There is now only one licensed slaughterhouse, that operated by J. Norman & Son, Portobello, Haltwhistle, in the district.

384 animals were slaughtered during the year, inspection was carried out in all cases and the carcases were stamped in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963. In the absence of the Public Health Inspector, an Inspector from Hexham Rural District has carried out the duties.

414 lbs. of carcase meat and offal were condemned during the year, and the figures in the accompanying tables give details of the meat condemned. It is worthy of note that in the 92 bovine carcases and offals inspected there was no evidence of tuberculosis or cystercercus bovis.

Again the most common cause for condemnation was cirrhosis of liver, which accounted for 74% of the total weight of meat and offal condemned.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	92	—	—	241	51
Number Inspected	92	—	—	241	51
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci : Whole Carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	24	—	—	38	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	26.08	—	—	16.18	—
Tuberculosis Only : Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis : Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Summary of Carcase Meat and Offals Condemned

	Tuberculosis	Cysticercus Bovis	Other Diseases and Conditions	Total
Cattle (ex- (excluding Cows) ..	—	—	313 lbs.	313 lbs.
Cows ..	—	—	—	—
Sheep and Lambs ..	—	—	101 lbs.	101 lbs.
Pigs ..	—	—	— lbs.	— lbs.
TOTAL ..	—	—	414 lbs.	414 lbs.

Disease or Condition	Weight of Meat Condemned Lbs.
Cirrhosis	313
Parasites	59
Septicaemia	42
TOTAL	414

Summary of Unsound Food Surrendered or Seized

Details of foodstuffs which were certified as being unfit for human consumption are shown in the following table.

	Surrendered			Seized			Legal
Unsound Food	No. of Tins	lbs.	ozs.	No. of Tins	lbs.	ozs.	Proceedings
Beef (Home Kill'd)	—	100	—	—	—	—	—
Bacon	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Tinned Meats ..	13	113	9	—	—	—	—
Tinned Vegetables	4	4	12	—	—	—	—
Beans	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Split Peas ..	—	1	4	—	—	—	—
Dried Milk ..	—	25	12	—	—	—	—
Soda Bicarb. ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cornflakes ..	—	1	14	—	—	—	—
Lard	—	3	12	—	—	—	—
Margarine ..	—	12	4	—	—	—	—
Rice	—	6	8	—	—	—	—
Suet	—	1	12	—	—	—	—
Tea	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Sugar (Icing) ..	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Barley	—	1	—				
	17	286	1	—	—	—	—

Food Inspection

222 visits were made to food premises during the year. The standard of cleanliness of both premises and personnel continues to be satisfactory.

There are a number of travelling shops and sales vans which visit various parts of the district and inspections have been carried out from time to time to ensure that hygiene practices were being complied with.

No prosecutions were taken under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Details of food premises in the area are shown in the following table.

During the year three public houses were closed. The Fox and Hounds, Bardon Mill, The Three Horse Shoes, Melkridge and the Red Lion, Haltwhistle. Cowburn School was also closed.

Food Premises

Type of Premises	
1. Hotels and Inns	17
2. Social Clubs and Public Halls ..	15
3. School Canteens	10
4. Works Canteens	3
5. Butchers	5
6. General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners	39
7. Cafes and Snack Bars	5
8. Fish and Chip Shops	1
9. Wet Fish Shops	2
10. Bakehouses	4
11. Hospitals and Institutes.. ..	2
12. Ice Cream Manufacturers ..	2
13. Mineral Water Factory	1
14. Chemists	2
Total	109

Ice Cream

One new premise was registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the sale or pre-packed ice cream.

Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the manufacture of Ice Cream	2
Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream	28

Milk

Routine samples of milk have been taken regularly throughout the year by the County Health Department from all dealers who sell milk in the area. Samples have also been regularly taken of all milk supplied to schools. 25 samples were taken, 14 of which were of milk supplied to schools. 2 samples failed the methylene blue test (keeping quality).

Brucellosis

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/66 routine samples of milk have been taken from the herds at all farms from which untreated milk is sold by retail. 15 samples have been taken and in all cases the Brucella abortus ring test was negative.

The Liquid Egg (Pasturisation) Regulations

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

Poultry Processing Premises

There are no poultry processing plants within the district.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse collection service continued as in previous years and has operated satisfactorily.

A 12 cubic yard Karrier Bantam, rear loader, with a driver and two loaders is used to collect from Haltwhistle and Plenmeller, and the outside district is collected with a 7 cubic yard Ford Thames side loader operated by a driver and one loader.

All refuse is disposed of at Plenmeller, with the exception of one half day's refuse per week, which is tipped at Lambley. Some difficulty has been experienced in keeping the Plenmeller tip in a tidy condition, and also in maintaining a regular tipping face, primarily because the tip attendant had to be used as a temporary loader on several occasions and in his absence there has been an amount of indiscriminate tipping by private individuals.

Refuse is collected from some 2,100 houses, approximately 92% of the inhabited houses in the district, and by estimated weight 2,700 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of.

Litter Act 1958

Although the local authority did not institute any proceedings under this Act during the year the local Police brought successful prosecutions against three individuals who had deposited litter in Haltwhistle Market Place.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	62	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	5	10	—	—
TOTAL	44	84	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) (a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—	—

Part VII of the Act
OUTWORK
Sections 110 & 111

There is one Outworker in the district engaged in embroidery. The premises have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

At the end of the year the number of factories on the register was 39 made up as follows :—

Joiners and Builders Premises	8
Garages and Motor Vehicle Repairs ..	7
Radio and Television Repairs	2
Corn Mill	1
Bakehouses	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers	2
Sanitary Pipe Works	2
Slaughterhouses	1
Sausage Manufacturers	4
Concrete Products	1
Mineral Water Factory	1
Egg Packing	1
Saw Mill	1
Gas Works	1
Plastic and Chemical Factories	2
Paint Works	1
	39

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

The details of premises registered and the numbers of persons employed in the various premises show very little change from the previous year.

152 visits were made during the year and all premises generally complied with the provisions of the Act.

Details of premises and persons employed are shown in the following tables.

There were no accidents reported during the year, and no prosecutions under the Act were taken.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered During the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises Inspected During year
(a) Offices	—	14	14
(b) Retail Shops ..	—	43	43
(c) Wholesale Depts. Warehouses ..	—	—	—
(d) Catering Establishments open to the public ..	—	9	9
(e) Staff Canteens ..	—	1	1
(f) Fuel Storage Depot	—	1	1
TOTALS ..	—	68	68

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed Males	Females	TOTAL
Offices	28	26	54
Retail Shops	64	111	175
Wholesale Depts. Warehouses	—	—	—
Catering Establishments	2	15	17
Staff Canteens	—	9	9
Fuel Storage Depots ..	1	—	1
TOTALS	95	161	256

RODENT CONTROL
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

For the first four months of the year the Council did not have a rodent operative. Mr. C. Guthrie commenced work on a part time basis on the 8th May and inspections and treatments have been satisfactorily carried out.

The following table gives details of premises which have been inspected and or treated during the year.

Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district..	2526	343
2. a Total number of properties (including near by premises) inspected following notifications	107	Nil
b Number infested by		
(i) Rats	101	—
(ii) Mice..	1	—
3. a Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification..	298	61
b Number infected by :		
(i) Rats..	18	3
(ii) Mice..	—	—
Sewers		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year ?	No	

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

At present there are 5 licensed sites in the area. One major site at Blenkinsopp Castle and four sites for individual caravans only.

In February planning permission was given to increase the number of caravans at Blenkinsopp Park to 65 (40 holiday and 25 residential) and a new licence was issued, the site being previously licensed to accommodate 60 caravans (45 holiday and 15 residential).

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the area.

Common Lodging Houses

Regular inspections have been made of the one common lodging house in the district, and conditions have been found to be generally satisfactory.

Pleaces of Entertainment, Circular 120 Ministry of Health

Number of Cinemas 1

Pet Animals Act 1951

There are no premises in the district registered under this Act.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

No formal action was necessary under this Act.

Clean Air Act 1956

No Prosecutions were instituted during the year.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964

In the district four persons are registered as Scrap Metal Dealers.

General Administration

A total of 640 personal callers making enquiries and complaints were received by the Public Health Department during the year, all matters arising were dealt with.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Applications for Council Houses	182
Council Housing (General)	117
Housing (Improvement Grants)	166
Housing (General)	133
Meat Inspection	46
Food Inspection	18
Food Premises	163
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises	29
Milk Sampling	41
Ice Cream Premises	30
Drainage	17
Factories	84
Infectious Diseases	12
Caravan Sites	28
Nuisances	71
Pest Control	107
Refuse Collection	224
Common Lodging House	13
Water Supplies (General)	3
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	152
Miscellaneous	47
	1,683